



DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

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2254

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NO.: CA - 2434 September 23, 1955

SUBJECT: Effect of Porkkala Agreement on Nordic Cooperation.

TO:

COPENHAGEN, HELSINKI, LONDON, MOSCOW, OSLO, REYKJAVIK, STOCKHOLM.

Moscow's Telegram 712, September 22, repeated to Helsinki as No. 27, quoted a Tass report from Helsinki reporting a statement in the Communist paper Työkansan Sanomat by Lovlien, Chairman of the Norwegian Communist Party, that the recent Soviet-Finnish agreement "creates preconditions for closer cooperation between various countries of the North."

The Department will be interested in receiving from the missions addressed any further reports of this nature indicating the effects anticipated by Communist and other circles from the recent Finnish-Soviet agreements providing for withdrawal from the base at Porkkala and 20-year renewal of the 1948 mutual assistance treaty.

As a working hypothesis it may be assumed that -- as in the past -- any current indications of apparent Soviet preference for some kind of Nordic neutrality bloc, including Finland, are designed merely to supply an attractive alternative to the membership of Iceland, Denmark and Norway in NATO. It is possible, however, that Soviet policy may consider even limited success along that line important enough to justify further maneuvers with Finland which could lead to basic changes in that country's position.

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